

HOUSE BILL 1941

By Winningham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to athletic scholarships at state institutions
of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section.

§ 49-7-1__.

(a) No institution of the University of Tennessee system or the state university
and community college system shall offer or grant a full or partial athletic scholarship to
any student entering college for the first time who:

(1) Did not pass the state-mandated high school exit or end-of-course
exams for the state in which the student's high school diploma was granted, if the
state requires such exams;

(2) Did not graduate from a high school that has a physical facility where
instructors regularly teach classes and evaluate student work and at which the
student was in regular physical attendance;

(3) Did not complete at least one (1) academic year of residence at the
school granting the high school diploma; and

(4) Did not receive a high school diploma from the school at which the
student last competed in the sport for which the student is seeking an athletic
scholarship.

(b) This section shall not apply to a student who completed high school in a
home school in accordance with the requirements of the state in which the student was a
resident during the last academic year of high school.

(c) Subdivision (a)(1) shall not apply to students receiving a high school diploma from Tennessee non-public schools that do not require passage of such exams and that:

(1) Are approved individually by the department of education;

(2) Belong to an agency whose accreditation process is approved by the state board of education;

(3) Are members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;

or

(4) Are church-related schools and exempt from regulation under § 49-50-801.

(d) This section shall not apply to a student seeking an athletic scholarship who has successfully completed one (1) or more years of college.

(e) The Tennessee higher education commission shall promulgate rules and regulations to provide exceptions from the requirements of subsection (a) for a student who did not compete in the sport for which the athletic scholarship is sought at the student's school of regular attendance because the school of regular attendance, from which the student received a high school diploma, did not offer such sport, a student who did not receive a high school diploma from the school at which the student last competed in the sport because of a family relocation, and other extenuating circumstances. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to athletic scholarships offered to students or prospective students on or after that date.